



STATE OF IDAHO



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IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS EXPOSURE

Boise – Dairy bulls imported to Idaho from California may have been exposed to bovine tuberculosis (TB), the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported today. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture will immediately launch an effort to locate and test those bulls for the disease.

Bovine tuberculosis is spread through the respiratory system by inhaling invisible droplets containing the TB bacteria which have been coughed or exhaled by an infected animal. The majority of infected animals do not display clinical signs of the disease and may be infected for years before any signs appear. The most common clinical signs of TB include a cough, weight and production loss, variable appetite and fluctuating fevers.

Bovine TB can affect both humans and animals. However, humans are at a very low risk of contracting the disease. Bovine TB is primarily transmitted to humans by consumption of raw (unpasteurized) milk or raw milk products containing the bacteria, individuals involved in certain slaughter processes or by exposure to bacteria in the air by individuals within closest contact to live infected cattle.

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Bovine TB does not pose a threat to the human food supply because the bacteria that causes the disease is not found in muscle meat and the pasteurizing process destroys any TB bacteria in raw milk or raw milk products.

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